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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

It is hard to understand how Microsoft can be judged guilty and then be given such a light penalty. In fact the proposed settlement looks more like a creation of Microsoft's marketing department than any kind of deterrent to monopolistic practices. Even with the minor changes announced today this settlement boosts Microsoft's position in the education market, one of the few areas that it has any serious competition.

Both Apple and Linux are very effectively blocked by this decisions. While Microsoft entrenches itself in an a market it has failed to master. Further the plan to allow used or refurbished equipment to be placed leverages Microsoft's exploitation of the matter, boosting used PC prices while saddling schools with technology that will quickly become outmoded.

No penalty would be a better solution that this government sponsored marketing blitz.

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